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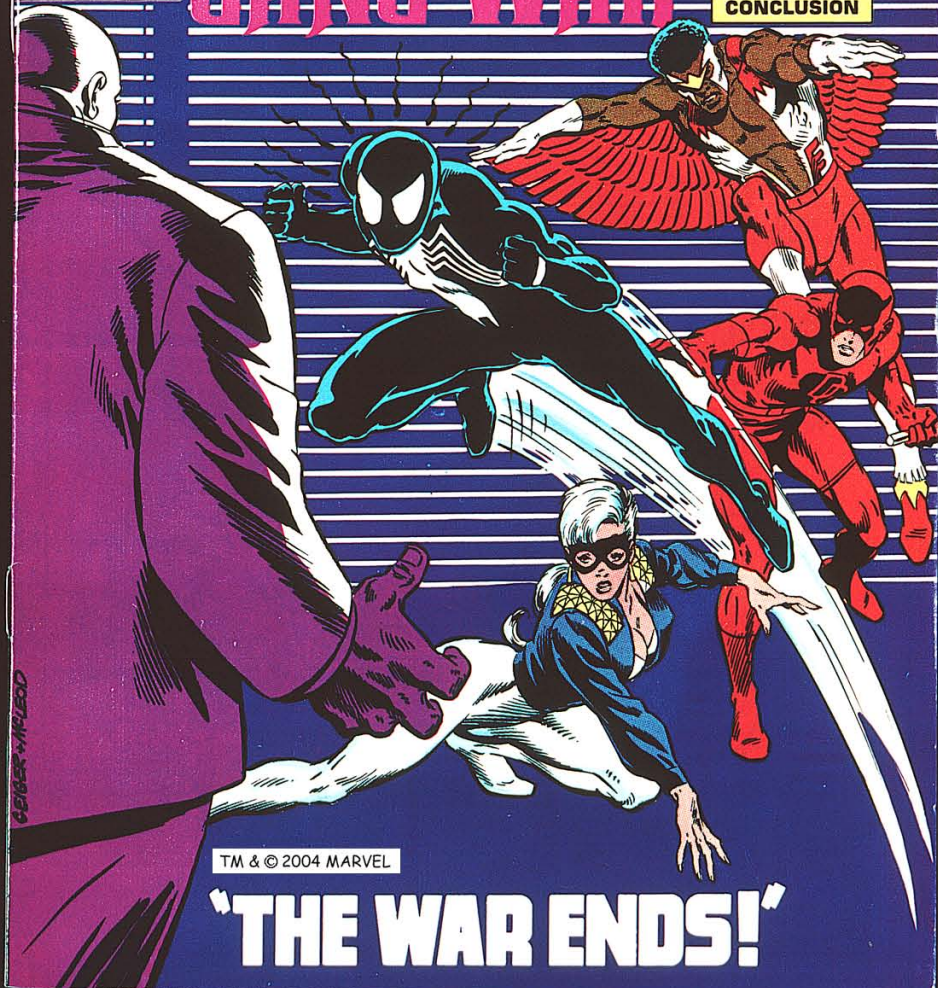
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

THE KINGPIN! DAREDEVIL! THE BLACK CAT! THE FALCON! ALL IN . . .

GANG WAR

PART FIVE
THE
CONCLUSION

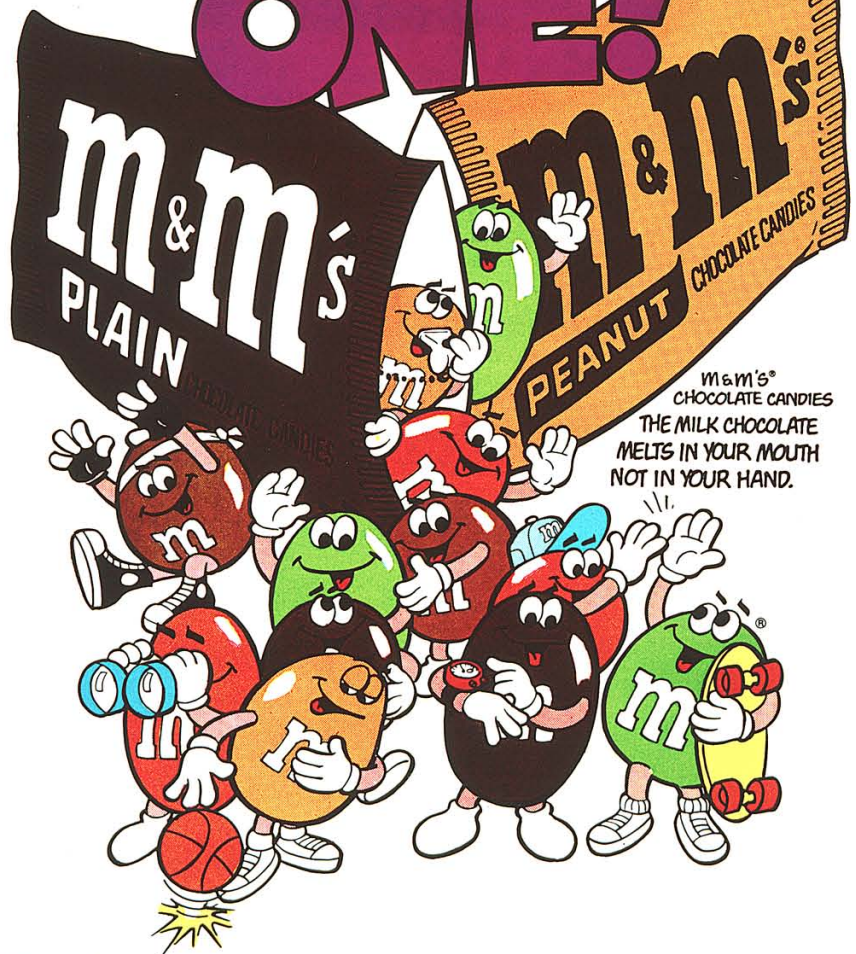


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"THE WAR ENDS!"

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PACKS OF FUN
FOR EVERY-
ONE!



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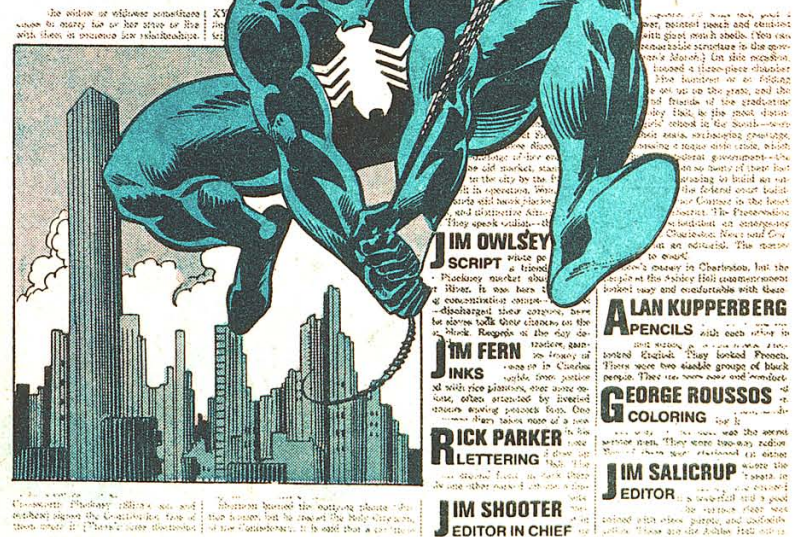
Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**
**** **FINAL** **DAILY BUGLE** 30c
THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER

VOL. LCX No. 22

December 19, 1986

Very cold high 20-25.
Details p. 2

GANG WAR RAGES ON!



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Vol. 1, No. 288, May, 1987. (ISSN 0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Comics Group. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rate \$9.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

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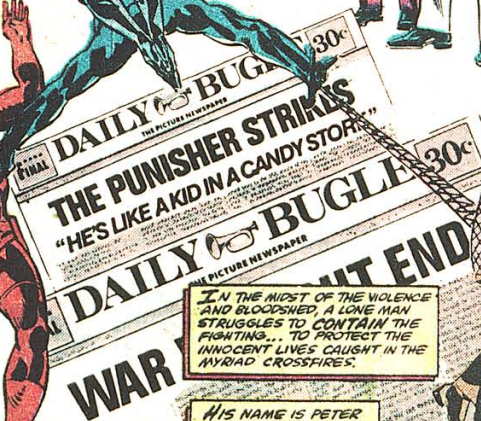
THROUGHOUT THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, WAR HAS BEEN WAGED IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY. IT IS A WAR OF GANGSTERS.

THE WAR CAME AS THE RESULT OF A SUDDEN, MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CITY'S MOST POWERFUL ORGANIZED CRIME LEADER... THE KINGPIN.



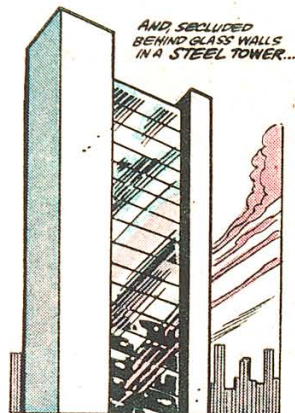
WITH THE KINGPIN GONE, THE CRIMINAL HIERARCHY BECAME VIOLENTLY UNSTABLE AS SEVERAL MAJOR FRACTIONS BEGAN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL. *

* GANG WAR PARTS 1-5 TAKE PLACE BEFORE SPIDER-MAN VS. WOLVERINE #1 AND AFTER THE DAREDEVIL GRAPHIC NOVEL. -- J.S.S.



IN THE MIST OF THE VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED, A LONE MAN STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN THE FIGHTING... TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT LIVES CAUGHT IN THE HYDRA CROSSFIRES.

HIS NAME IS PETER PARKER. HE IS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!



AND SECLUDED
BEHIND GLASS WALLS
IN A STEEL TOWER...



... THE KINGPIN OF CRIME.



NEXT!

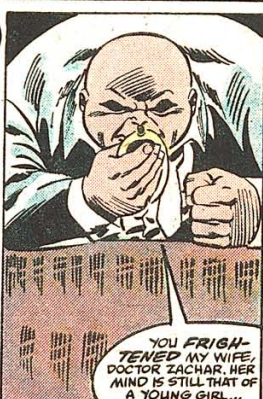


YOU WANTED
TO SEE ME,
MR. FISK?

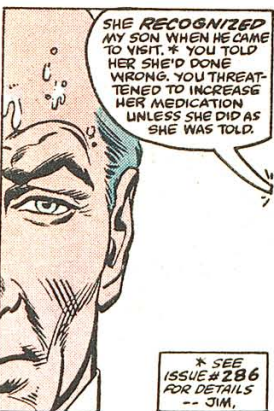
I HAVE MISGIVINGS
ABOUT YOUR TREAT-
MENT OF MY WIFE,
DOCTOR ZACHAR.



YOU... LEFT INSTRUCTIONS
TO KEEP HER SEDATED... RELAXED
SO THAT NO ONE WOULD... COULD...

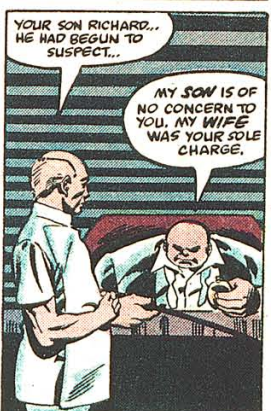


YOU FRIGH-
TENED MY WIFE,
DOCTOR ZACHAR. HER
MIND IS STILL THAT OF
A YOUNG GIRL...



SHE RECOGNIZED
MY SON WHEN HE CAME
TO VISIT. * YOU TOLD
HER SHE'D DONE
WRONG. YOU THREAT-
ENED TO INCREASE
HER MEDICATION
UNLESS SHE DID AS
SHE WAS TOLD.

* SEE
ISSUE #286
FOR DETAILS
-- JIM.



YOUR SON RICHARD...
HE HAD BEGUN TO
SUSPECT...

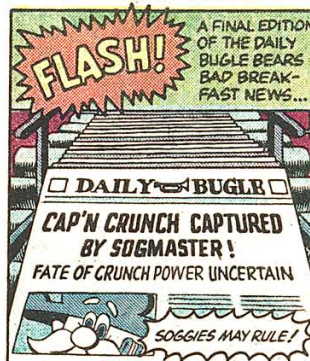
MY SON IS OF
NO CONCERN TO
YOU. MY WIFE
WAS YOUR SOLE
CHARGE.



YOU'VE FAILED
ME MISERABLY,
DOCTOR ZACHAR.

I... I'M
SORRY...
I...

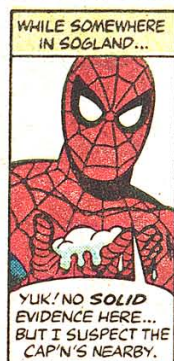
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® IN THE FREE THE CAP'N MYSTERY



FLASH!

A FINAL EDITION
OF THE DAILY
BUGLE BEARS
BAD BREAK-
FAST NEWS...

DAILY BUGLE
CAP'N CRUNCH CAPTURED
BY SOGMASTER!
FATE OF CRUNCH POWER UNCERTAIN
SOGGIES MAY RULE!



WHILE SOMEWHERE
IN SOGLAND...

YUK! NO SOLID
EVIDENCE HERE...
BUT I SUSPECT THE
CAP'N'S NEARBY.



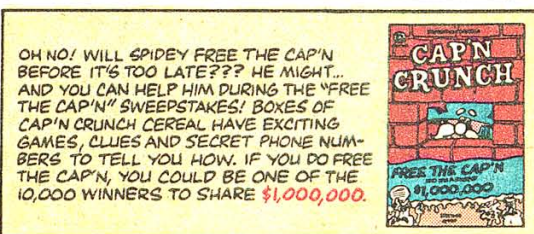
MEANWHILE, ON A HILLSLOP...

YIKES!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN,
SOGMASTER!



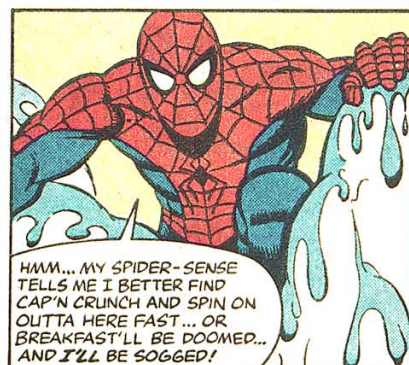
HE, HE, HE...
HE WON'T BE BUGGING
US FOR LONG!



OH NO! WILL SPIDEY FREE THE CAP'N
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE??? HE MIGHT...
AND YOU CAN HELP HIM DURING THE "FREE
THE CAP'N" SWEEPSTAKES! BOXES OF
CAP'N CRUNCH CEREAL HAVE EXCITING
GAMES, CLUES AND SECRET PHONE NUM-
BERS TO TELL YOU HOW. IF YOU DO FREE
THE CAP'N, YOU COULD BE ONE OF THE
10,000 WINNERS TO SHARE \$1,000,000.



HE, HE, HE...
MY GIANT FLY
SPLOTTER WILL
FINISH THAT
PEST!



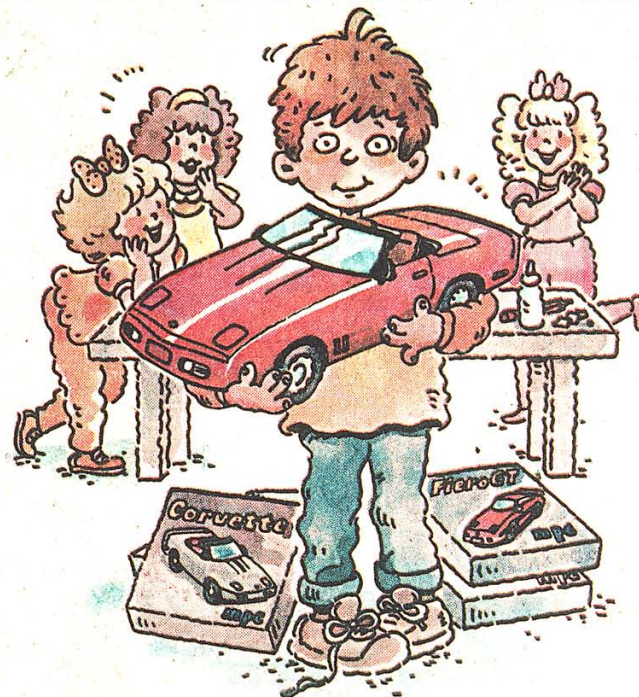
HMM... MY SPIDER-SENSE
TELLS ME I BETTER FIND
CAP'N CRUNCH AND SPIN ON
OUTTA HERE FAST... OR
BREAKFAST'LL BE DOOMED...
AND I'LL BE SOGGED!

No purchase necessary. For full rules and free rescue kit, write to: FREE THE CAP'N
RESCUE KIT, P.O. Box 3079, Syosset, New York 11775. Sweepstakes expires
February 14, 1987.

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PETER?
PETER,
ARE YOU
THERE?

OH GOSH
OH GOSH!
OH GOSH!

MY
APARTMENT
BLEW UP!

I'LL GIVE
YOU TAXI FARE
TO A HOTEL.



WHAT, AUNT MAY? I--
N/AUNT MAY. WE'RE
UH... HAVING BREAKFAST!

BREAKFAST,
DARLING?

NO, THANKS.
IT'S PROBABLY
CATNIP.



WHY, SURE,
AUNT MAY... I'D
LOVE TO COME
OVER FOR LUNCH.

NICE
HAIRCUT.
YOU USE
GARDENING
SHEARS OR
A SHARP
ROCK?



I'LL BE RIGHT
OVER, AUNT MAY!

SHEESH...

WHY, I
OUGHTTA..!



WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, I'M "FIRED"?
I DID GOOD WORK
FOR THE ARRANGER
WHILE YOU WERE
GONE!

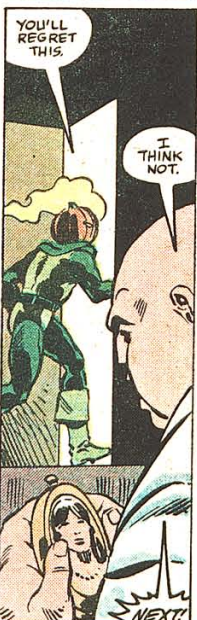


I SAVED HIS
LIFE--! I
DON'T DESERVE
THIS!

I AM AWARE
OF YOUR RECORD,
JACK O' LANTERN!



YOU HAVE, HOWEVER,
SERVED YOUR PURPOSE.
YOU'VE YET TO DEMON-
STRATE TO MY SATISFACTION
A LEVEL OF PROMISE
CONSUMMATE TO THE
CHIEF ASSASSIN
POSITION WITHIN MY
ORGANIZATION.



YOU'LL
REGRET
THIS.

I
THINK
NOT.

NEXT!



GREENWICH VILLAGE.

HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
THAT MANIAC EX-PARTNER
OF YOURS--



--THE HOBGOBLIN!
RICHARD, THE MAN HAS
SHAPED! I'M GONNA
POP A CAP IN HIS YELLOW,
UGLY FACE!



RELAX, ALFREDO. YOU
CAN'T JUST RUN AROUND
SHOOTING PEOPLE.

SURE
I CAN.

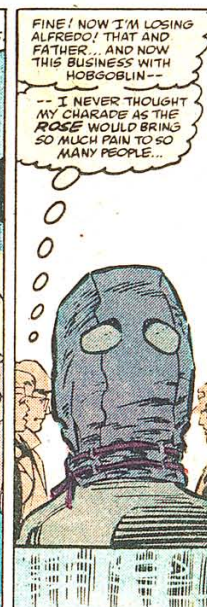
MY FATHER, THE
KINGPIN, IS UP TO SOME-
THING. ALFREDO, THE
HOBGOBLIN HAS PROBABLY
SOLD US OUT BY NOW!



THAT MEANS WE'VE
GOT REAL PROBLEMS.

HEY, PAL, I DON'T
LET ANYBODY
WALK OVER ME!
MY DEAR, RICH-
DADDY TAUGHT
ME THAT!

I'M GOING
TO TAKE
HOBGOBLIN
OUT!

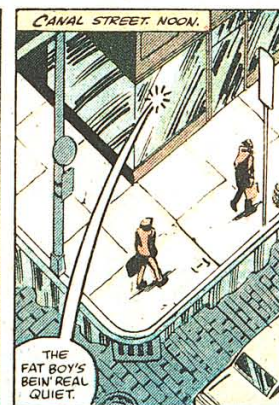


FINE! NOW I'M LOSING
ALFREDO! THAT AND
FATHER... AND NOW
THIS BUSINESS WITH
HOBGOBLIN--

-- I NEVER THOUGHT
MY CHARADE AS THE
ROSE WOULD BRING
SO MUCH PAIN TO SO
MANY PEOPLE...



...OR BRING ME TO THE
POINT WHERE I HAVE TO
DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT
I SHOULD EVEN GO ON!



CANAL STREET. NOON.

THE
FAT BOY'S
BEIN' REAL
QUIET.



MAKES ME NERVOUS WHEN KING-
PIN'S THIS QUIET. IT USUALLY MEANS
HE'S MAKING SOME HEAVY MOVES!

EARN FAMOUS NAME EARN \$1.00 AN ITEM

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RADIO CONTROL "TURBO PANTHER" SPIN FISHING OUTFIT Sell 19 Items	CASIO CHRONO-ALARM WATCH Sell 12 Items	TYRE-SIGHT TYRING TUTOR Sell 32 Items	KODAK "START" CYCLE CURR CRUISER Sell 62 Items	INSTANT CAMERA OUTFIT Sell 12 Items	
SNO-SURF TUBE Sell 10 Items	RECORDS OR TAPES Sell 8 Items	DIVERS' MASK & SNORKEL SET Sell 10 Items	KODAK "CHALLENGER" DISC CAMERA OUTFIT Sell 24 Items	SCHLASSIC BEST SELLERS BOOK SET Sell 9 Items	TWO-MAN BOAT KIT Sell 20 Items
RADIO CONTROL SPINNING SAM Sell 13 Items	MILTON BRADLEY ROBOTIX Sell 12 Items	RADIO CONTROL CORVETTE Sell 11 Items	PARANORMAL "CHALLENGER" DISC CAMERA OUTFIT Sell 24 Items	G.E. AM/FM LED DIGITAL CLOCK RADIO Sell 18 Items	
AEROBIC EXERCISE MACHINE Sell 8 Items	NEUF OUTFIT Sell 17 Items	REMOTO CONTROL REMO-KIT Sell 9 Items	FREE WHEEL BICYCLE Sell 80 Items	ACADEMY WYLYN BACKPACK TENT Sell 18 Items	
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MAC GREGOR BASEBALL GLOVE Sell 13 Items	MUTT'S 3 SOUNDS Sell 14 Items	THE LOVABLE HOUND Sell 14 Items	BIKE SIREN WITH MICROPHONE Sell 9 Items	"LARRY BIRD" BASKETBALL Sell 15 Items	
KODAK "LITTLE LITE" POCKET CAMERA OUTFIT Sell 20 Items	SLINKY WATCH Sell 17 Items	AM/FM CASSETTE HEADSET PLAYER Sell 26 Items	RAINBOW LATCH HOOK SET Sell 9 Items	DELUXE UNO KNEE CHEST Sell 11 Items	

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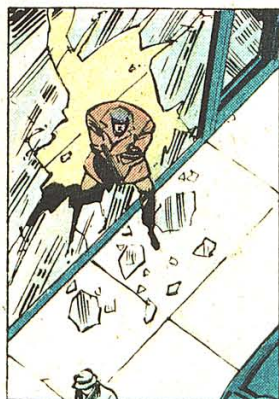
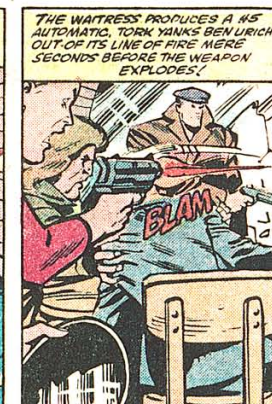
CALL CAPTAIN "O" OPERATOR TOLL FREE
1-800-528-6644*
 (In Arizona: 1-800-352-0458)
 24 HOURS A DAY...
 7 DAYS A WEEK, Including Sunday



Ask for Edith

She or another CAPTAIN "O" operator is waiting to rush your name, address and ZIP CODE to us.

*PLEASE... operators can take name and address only... CANNOT answer questions.





THE REPORT IS IN FROM CANAL STREET.

URICH AND MURDOCK ARE STILL ALIVE.

OUR TWO AGENTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.



TERMINATE THEM BOTH. TODAY. BEFORE THE ARRAIGNMENT...

...USE OUT OF TOWN PEOPLE.



THREE P.M.

NED! NED LEEDS!

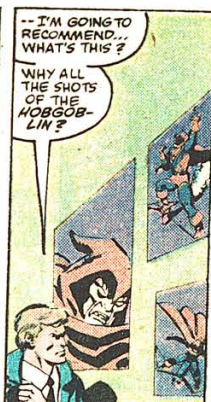
HI, LANCE.

NICE TO ACTUALLY FIND YOU FOR ONCE. YOU'RE A REGULAR MYSTERY MAN NOW-DAYS.



I'M GOING TO HIT JONAH UP FOR A EUROPEAN TRIP I'M WORKING ON A VERY BIG STORY... THE BIGGEST OF MY CAREER.

I'LL NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER--



-- I'M GOING TO RECOMMEND... WHAT'S THIS?

WHY ALL THE SHOTS OF THE HOBGOBLIN?

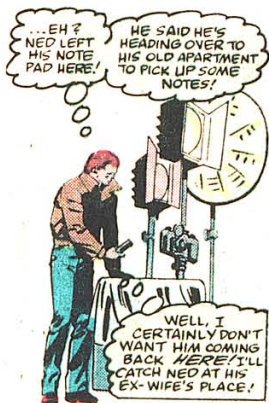


WELL, I, UH, I'M PUTTING TOGETHER A PHOTO MORGUE AND I JUST FOUND MY HOBGOBLIN FILE... I'M SORTING THROUGH IT...



SOON AFTER NED HAS LEFT...

WHEW! HE BOUGHT IT! I'VE GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL! IF ANYONE EVER SUSPECTED...



...EH? NED LEFT HIS NOTE PAD HERE! HE SAID HE'S HEADING OVER TO HIS BACK APARTMENT TO PICK UP SOME NOTES!



THIS IS A LIST OF MEN I WANT ELIMINATED FROM MY ORGANIZATION.

DO NOT WRITE THIS DOWN.



HOLLINGSWORTH...

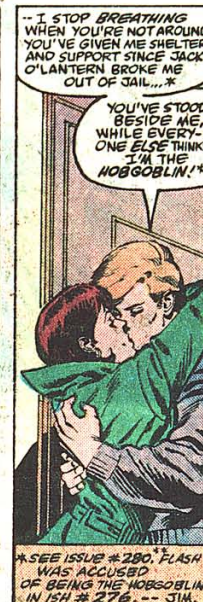
...DARBY...
...BENTON...
...WIGGINS...
...LEVY...
...NOSTRAND...



MEANWHILE...

FLASH THOMPSON, YOU'D BETTER LET ME GO! WITHOUT GROCERIES, WE'LL STARVE!

DON'T BE GONE TOO LONG, BETTY--



-- I STOP BREATHING WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND. YOU'VE GIVEN ME SHELTER AND SUPPORT SINCE JACK O'LANTERN BROKE ME OUT OF JAIL...*

YOU'VE STOOD BESIDE ME, WHILE EVERYONE ELSE THINKS I'M THE HOBGOBLIN...*

*SEE ISSUE #280. FLASH WAS ACCUSED OF BEING THE HOBGOBLIN IN ISH #276. -- JIM.



I'LL KEEP MY SMILE ON 'TIL YOU GET BACK!

FLASH HAS TURNED AROUND COMPLETELY! WHEN HE CAME TO ME HE WAS FRIGHTENED AND DISORIENTED!



I DON'T KNOW IF HIDING HIM AT MY APARTMENT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, BUT FLASH CAN'T POSSIBLY BEGIN TO HELP HIMSELF UNTIL HE HAS A CHANCE TO PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER!

NED'S PLACE IS RIGHT ACROSS THE WAY--

HEY, NED'S BETTY, THERE'S ESTRANGED WIFE! AND... THERE IN THE WINDOW... FLASH THOMPSON!



I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT AN INCREDIBLE STROKE OF LUCK!

AT LAST, I HAVE MY CHANCE!



...JENKINS...

...WILLIAMS...

...STONE...

...MATOS...

...NEVEL...

...THORNTON...

...VANDROSS...



A HALF-HOUR LATER...

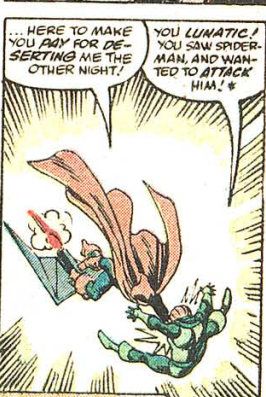
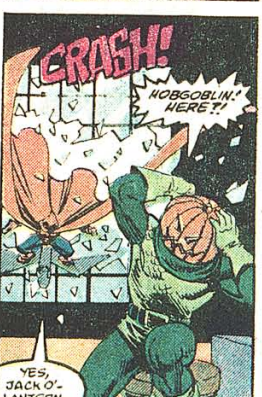
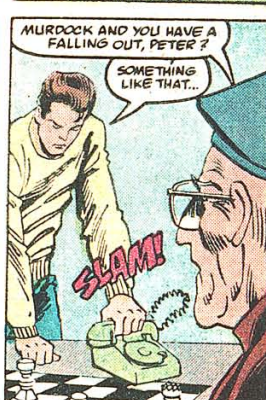
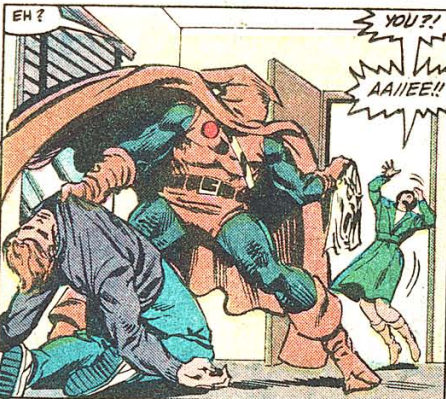
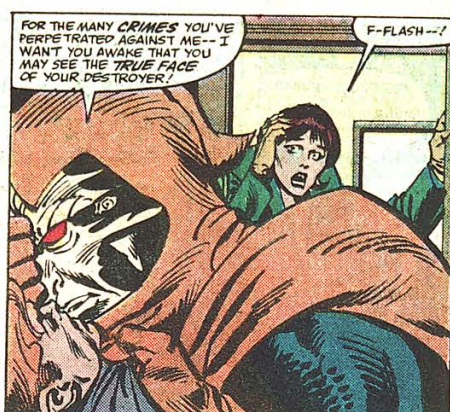
FLASH! FLASH, YOU LUG... HELP ME WITH THESE BAGS--

WAKE UP, CRETIN!



WHAT ON EARTH...?

OPEN YOUR EYES--





SUDDENLY...

ALFREDO?

THOUGH SHIELDED BY HIS COSTUME'S CHAIN MAIL, THE IMPACT OF ALFREDO'S SLUGSHOT KNOCKS THE HOBGOBLIN TO THE FLOOR!

UH-UHNN, HOBGOBLIN-- NO TRICKS THIS TIME! YOU MADE A BIG MISTAKE WHEN YOU CROSSED ME!

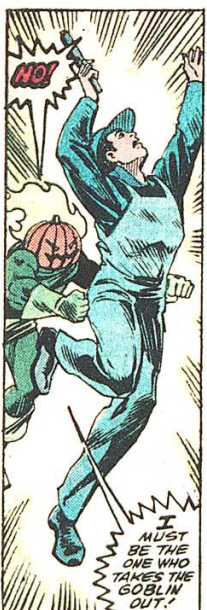


KA-BOOM!

THIS JAMMING DEVICE INHIBITS YOUR COSTUME'S CYBERNETIC WEAPONRY, AND DEABLES THAT GLIDER OF YOURS!



IN OTHER WORDS, JERK, YOU'VE HAD IT!



NO!

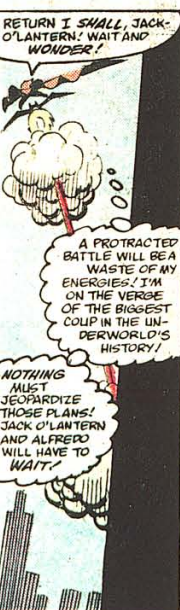
WHAT AN IDIOT! I DROPPED MY INHIBITOR-- HOBBOY WILL BE BACK TO FULL POWER--



"--ANY SECOND NOW!"

FOOL! YOU CANNOT DESTROY THE HOBGOBLIN!

COME BACK YOU COWARD!



RETURN I SHALL, JACK-O-LANTERN! WAIT AND WONDER!

A PROTRACTED BATTLE WILL BE A WASTE OF MY ENERGIES! I'M ON THE VERGE OF THE BIGGEST COUP IN THE UNDERWORLD'S HISTORY!

NOTHING MUST JEOPARDIZE THOSE PLANS! JACK-O-LANTERN AND ALFREDO WILL HAVE TO WAIT!



ALFREDO JUST CALLED. HE ALMOST HAD HOBGOBLIN, BUT JACK-O-LANTERN RUINED IT!

NOW HOBGOBLIN WILL THINK THE ROSE WAS BEHIND ALFREDO'S ATTACK... AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RETALIATE!

THIS MESS JUST KEEPS GROWING! LOOK, DINA, HOBGOBLIN DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS LOFT.

I'VE KEPT IT A SECRET, PREFERING TO OPERATE FROM MY MIDTOWN PENTHOUSE!



STILL, MAYBE WE SHOULD SPLIT--

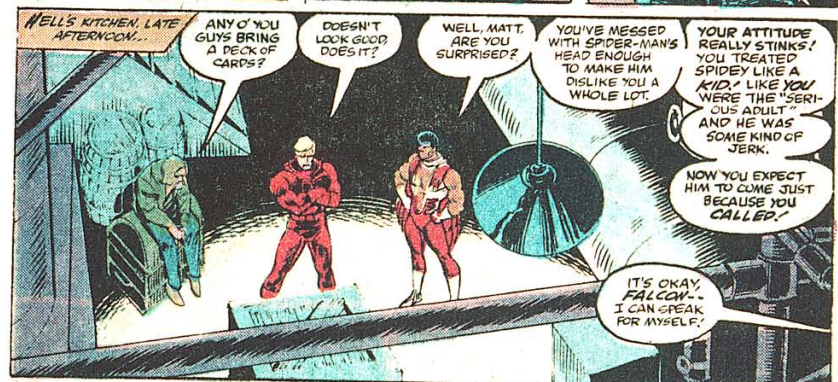
BBRRRRRRR

THAT'S THE ROSE'S DIRECT LINE... ONLY VARLEY CALLS ME ON THAT PHONE!



YES, MR. VARLEY?

RICHARD, THIS IS YOUR FATHER. YOU MUST COME IMMEDIATELY.



HELL'S KITCHEN, LATE AFTERNOON...

ANY O' YOU GUYS BRING A DECK OF CARDS?

DIDN'T LOOK GOOD DOES IT?

WELL, MATT, ARE YOU SURPRISED?

YOU'VE MESSED WITH SPIDER-MAN'S HEAD ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM DISLIKE YOU A WHOLE LOT.

YOUR ATTITUDE REALLY STINKS! YOU TREATED SPIDEY LIKE A KID, LIKE YOU WERE THE "SERIOUS ADULT" AND HE WAS SOME KIND OF JERK.

NOW YOU EXPECT HIM TO COME JUST BECAUSE YOU CALLED!

IT'S OKAY, FALCON-- I CAN SPEAK FOR MYSELF!



SPIDER-MAN... AND THE BLACK CAT!



SPIDER-MAN... WAIT...

NO, YOU WAIT, MISTER! YOU'VE GOT A HEAVY LOT OF NERVE CALLING ME--

NO GAMES THIS TIME SPIDER-MAN! NO TRICKS! IT'S THE KINGPIN!

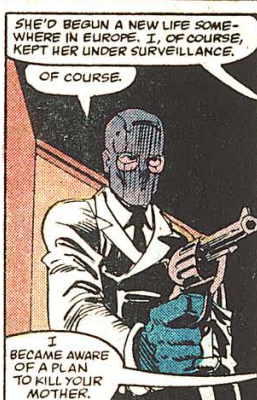
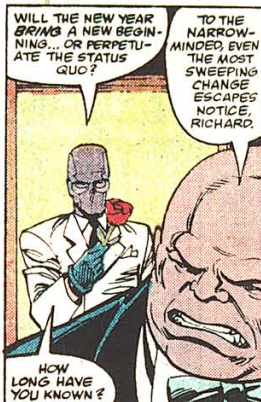
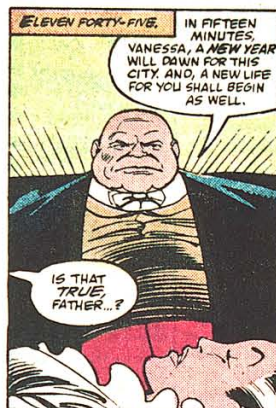


HE'S GONNA KILL EVERY ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS TONIGHT! IT'S HIS BIG HOUSE-CLEANING MOVE! YOU WANT TO NAIL THE GUY, DON'T YOU? WELL, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!



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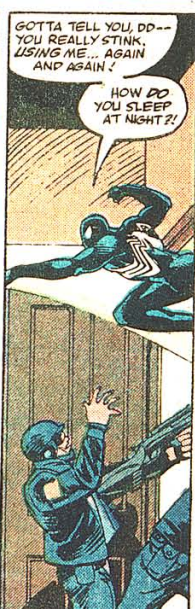
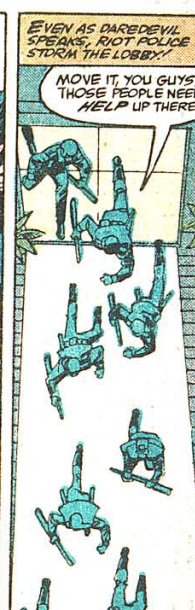
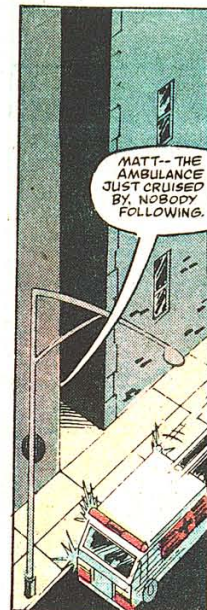
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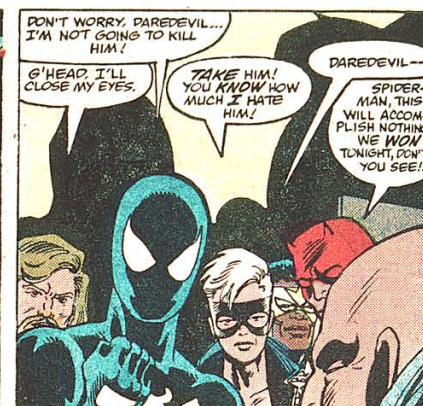
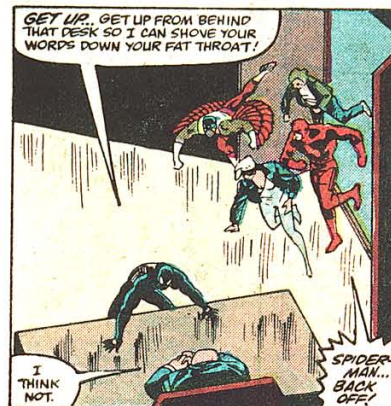


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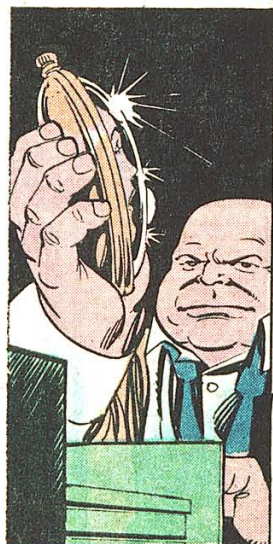
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NEXT: THE HOBGOBLIN REVEALED!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
ADAM BLAUSTEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marveldom,

There is one thing I'd like to see in a Spider-Man comic before you reveal the true identity of the Hobgoblin. I would like to see you present a letter page similar to the one in ASM #201. You showed what every letter, that month, was basically about. I would like to see how many people think they know the identity of the Hobgoblin, and who they think it is. I personally know that it is Ned Leeds. So go ahead and mark down that I had the correct one.

Greg Welch
Tempe, AZ

You wanted it—you got it, Greg! Since we're gonna reveal the true identity of the Hobgoblin in our very next issue, we proudly present a partial perusal of our audience's assumptions on the actual identity of THE HOBGOBLIN!

Dear Spider-sirs,

I've finally figured out who the Hobgoblin really is—WOLVERINE! The only logical answer is the famous X-Man himself! He's secretly been taking time out from his busy schedule to come up to New York and bother Spidey! That's it. I've figured it out! I mean after all it's totally obvious.

Jim Tudor
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Web-heads,

I just picked up a copy of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #284, and I gotta tell ya it was great! I especially liked it because it had a few of my favorite villains (namely Hobgoblin). I've been a Spidey fan for a long time and I'll never stop collecting Spider-Man comics. Speaking of the Hobgoblin, I know his secret identity—he's Ned Leeds!

Michael Shavaliar
Niagara Falls, NY

Dear Spider-people,

It seems like forever that you have been jerking us back and forth between Lance Bannon and Ned Leeds being the Hobgoblin. Both have set off Pete's spider-sense. Both have acted suspiciously, hostile, and belligerent. My explanation is that while Ned Leeds is the Hobgoblin, Lance Bannon is Jack O'Lantern. How ironic, and also appropriate that these personal rivals should also be professional antagonists. How long ago did you devious geniuses plot this whole thing out?

Paul Thiel
Crescent Springs, KY

Dear Arachnids,

What's the matter? Do you guys think I only read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN? No! I also read PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN! (WEB, too!)

Anyway, in PPTSSM #123 we see Captain Chris Keating perform the superhuman act of ripping open a jail cell! THIS IS PROOF POSITIVE—THAT CHRIS KEATING IS THE HOBGOBLIN!! "Nuff said!

Kim Lee
Passaic, NJ

Dear Spider-Crew,

The Hobgoblin is NOT Captain Keating! Why? Because back in ASM #276, on the last page, Keating is in Flash Thompson's apartment. Then in the seventh panel we go to Hobby's place, and the caption reads, "Elsewhere, at that very moment." Keating can't be two places at the same time.

The Hobgoblin is NED LEEDS! Get used to it!

Steve Farrow
Wheeling, W.V.

Jim and Adam (and Jim).

ARRGHHHHHHHHH! I thought it was Ned. I really thought it was Ned! I just got finished reading SPIDER-MAN VS. WOLVERINE, and in it, Ned Leeds dies! He's dead. You guys are trying to drive me insane! WHO IS THE HOBGOBLIN? Tell me—Pleaseeez.

Luiz Mendoza
Corona, NY

Dear Spider-people,

Being an avid Spidey fan, I believe that I have found out who the Hobgoblin really is. The Hobgoblin really is Peter Parker! How can that be, you ask? Well, I'll tell you. You see, a long time ago Spidey disposed of his clone in a smokesack, right? My theory is simple. Someone (possibly Harry when he was out of it) found the clone's body and regenerated it from some still living tissue. However, due to certain

processes during the regeneration the clone lost a few things, such as: Spider-sense, wall-crawling ability, and certain portions of his memory. All the clone knows is that for some reason he really hates Spider-Man and he has a unique opportunity to get rid of him. It all adds up. Who else knows all the secrets of the Green Goblin? Who else can fight Spidey to a virtual stand still? The only thing that makes any difference is that the clone is a few years younger. That's it!

Brian Conner
Muncie, IN

Dear Web-slingers,

The reason for the Kingpin's absence is—He's the Hobgoblin!
Todd Oberndorfer
Farmington Hills, MI

Spidey Crew,

To settle a common disagreement, Ned Leeds is the Hobgoblin.
Kelli Burke
Kalkaska, MI

Dear Spider's Web,

These are my probably preposterous personal personnel predictions:
1) Flash Thompson is not the Hobgoblin.
2) The Rose is Roderick Kingsley.
3) Captain Keating is not the Hobgoblin.
4) Lance Bannon is simply a photographer.
5) NED LEEDS IS THE HOBGOBLIN!
Please keep me in suspense for a while longer.

Alex Pogel
Sarasota, FL

You have only thirty days, Alex!

Dear Web-makers,

I have narrowed the Hobgoblin's secret identity down to four possibilities.

- 1) The Foreigner. Ever since I found out that the Black Cat is dealing with him, I've thought he was the Hobgoblin.
- 2) The Kingpin's son. As everyone knows, they are very much enemies.
- 3) The Green Goblin. I know that Norman Osborn is dead, but I would like to point out that they both use the same weapons.
- 4) J.J.J. (Jolly Jonah). Because of his hatred for Spider-Man.

Joshua Terrell
Waycross, Ga.

Dear Jim,

Can we please find out who the Hobgoblin is? Pretty please?
Michael Ries
Detroit, MI

Okay, Michael! (And everyone else!) In thirty days—the moment you've all been waiting for! This is not a trick. This is not a joke! This is it! At last, the identity of the Hobgoblin will be revealed to anyone lucky enough to read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #289. Hobby has been a mystery since ASM #238, and now fifty one issues later... the payoff! It's a special double-sized issue, gang, and we're pulling out all the stops. Run! Don't walk to your comic shop today! Reserve your copy, now! After all, you don't want one of your friends to (accidentally) blurt out the surprise, and ruin it for ya? Didn't think so.



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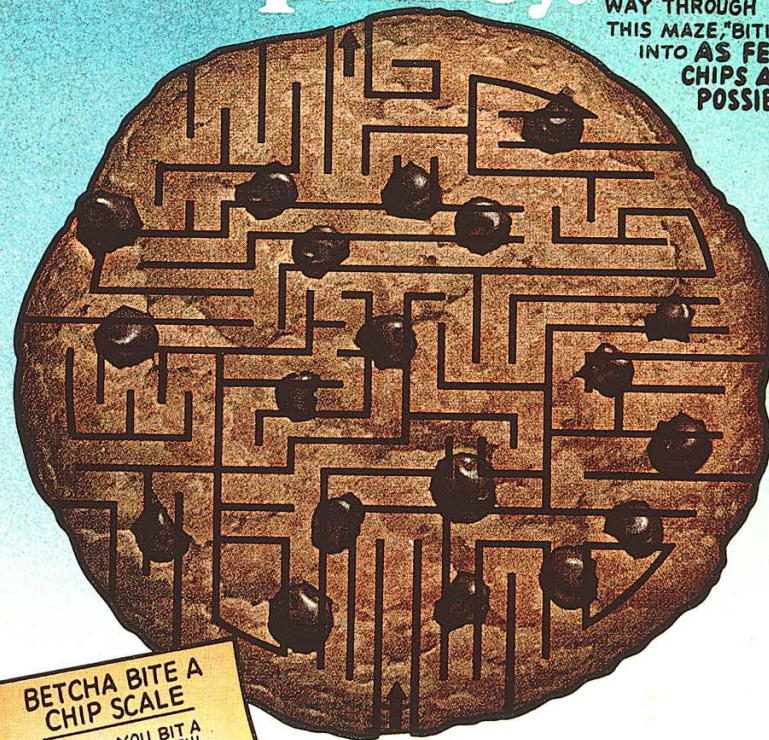
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